

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4146
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2013
BAMBOO HARVESTING
Sayeed Muhammed Hamdulla A. B.

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether forest dwellers have preference over wildlife and Gram Sabha is allowed to regulate bamboo harvesting;
- (b) if so, whether such move would not sound the death knell for Indian wildlife including tigers and elephants;
- (c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether the naturally fallen bamboo is declared minor forest produce for locals to harvest and the remaining bamboo remain under the control of the forest departments; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SMT. RANEE NARAH)

(a) to (e): As per the Scheduled Tribes and Other Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act (FRA) 2006, right of ownership, access to collect, use and dispose of Minor Forest Produce (MFP), which have been traditionally collected within or outside village boundaries, rests with the forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers. The amended Rules (2012) under the Act provide for transportation of MFP and issuance of transit permit through a committee constituted by the Gram Sabha or a person authorized by it. The bamboo has been defined as Minor Forest Produce under the FRA and Gram Sabhas are expected to regulate bamboo harvesting. However, the Indian Forest Act, 1927 has defined bamboo as timber. Since the management and administration of forests in different states is largely governed by the Indian Forest Act, its harvesting and trade is controlled by State Forest Departments.